



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

May 2, 2008

Reply To  
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 05-056-AFS

Patricia A. Grantham, Acting Forest Supervisor  
Department of Agriculture - U. S. Forest Service  
Klamath National Forest  
1312 Fairlane Road  
Yreka, CA 96097

Dear Ms. Grantham:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the **Mt. Ashland Late-Successional Reserve Habitat Restoration and Fuels Reduction Project** (CEQ No. 20080130) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309, independent of NEPA, specifically directs EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions. Under our policies and procedures we evaluate the document's adequacy in meeting NEPA requirements.

The EIS evaluates four action alternatives with various habitat restoration and fuel treatments activities within the project area. The Preferred Alternative, designed to address comments received on the draft EIS, includes 2,951 acres of habitat restoration treatments, 1,058 acres of treatments to develop defensible fuel profile zones (DFPZs), and 5,765 acres of treatments to reduce fuels, including underburning, hand-piling and mastication. Approximately 1.7 miles of new temporary spur road will be constructed for project implementation, and then decommissioned after project completion.

We appreciate the inclusion of the new action alternative (the Preferred Alternative) which reduces the use of ground-based systems and eliminates 14 spur roads that were included in the draft EIS Proposed Alternative. While the Preferred Alternate may include skid trails in Riparian Reserves, we support your decision to restrict skid trails within 170 feet of streams and to eliminate skid trails in perennial and intermittent stream courses. The additional information provided regarding public drinking water supplies addresses our concerns about source water protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this final EIS. If have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact either myself at (206) 553-1601 or Mike Letourneau at (206) 553-6382.

Sincerely,

/s/  
Christine Reichgott, Manager  
NEPA Review Unit